

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PORT O 00361 011921Z  
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00  
DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03  
LAB-04 SIL-01 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 /060 W  
-----119599 011935Z /64/10

R 312040Z JAN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1937  
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN  
AMEMBASSY CARACAS  
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN  
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA  
AMEMBASSY TORONTO  
AMCONGEN MONTREAL

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT OF SPAIN 0361

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y FOR ADDED ADDEE

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: EAIR, CASC, TD  
SUBJECT: BWIA PILOTS VOTE TO STRIKE

1. PILOTS OF BRITISH WEST INDIAN AIRWAYS (BWIA) AND TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO AIR SERVICES (TTAS) HAVE VOTED TO CALL A STRIKE AT 4 P.M. TOMORROW (FEBRUARY 1) IF THEIR DEMANDS FOR REINSTATEMENT OF A SUSPENDED PILOT ARE NOT MET. TIMING OF STRIKE IS CRITICAL, AS IT WOULD ESSENTIALLY GROUND BWIA AND TTAS FLIGHTS DURING CARNIVAL SEASON, WHEN NUMBER OF TOURISTS VISITING TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO IS AT PEAK.

2. PILOT AT CENTER OF DISPUTE WAS GROUNDED (UNTIL NOW ON FULL PAY) FOLLOWING HOSPITALIZATION IN JULY OF 1977 FOR A DRINKING PROBLEM. HE HAS SINCE BEEN CLEARED FOR FLYING BY  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PORT O 00361 011921Z

SEVERAL DOCTORS, INCLUDING SOME OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO'S MOST DISTINGUISHED PHYSICIANS. NEVERTHELESS, BWIA HAS REFUSED TO PERMIT HIM TO FLY, AND HAS NOW OFFERED A GROUND JOB AT HALF HIS PREVIOUS SALARY. PILOTS HAVE TAKEN A STRONG STAND ON PRINCIPLE. ACTION WOULD DELIBERATELY FLAUNT PROCEDURES ESTABLISHED BY INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS ACT (IRA), AS ORIGINAL

RESOLUTION PROPOSED BY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF PILOTS' ASSOCIATION, WHICH WOULD MAKE STRIKE PROVISIONAL ON GIVING STRIKE NOTICE REQUIRED BY IRA, WAS REJECTED IN FAVOR OF RESOLUTION FROM THE FLOOR TO TAKE DIRECT STRIKE ACTION.

3. WHILE THERE IS A POSSIBILITY THAT ISSUE MAY BE RESOLVED BEFORE DEADLINE BECOMES EFFECTIVE, THE EMBASSY'S CONSULAR SECTION IS BRACING FOR AN ONSLAUGHT OF STRANDED TOURISTS.

4. COMMENT: RUMOR IS THAT REAL REASON BWIA REFUSES TO REINSTATE PILOT IS THAT HE WAS THE FLIGHT CAPTAIN INVOLVED IN AN INCIDENT LAST JUNE WHEN JOHN DONALDSON, MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NATIONAL SECURITY, WAS PUT OUT OF THE FIRST CLASS CABIN OSTENSIBLY BECAUSE HE LACKED FIRST CLASS TICKET, THUS PILOTS ARE FIGHTING NOT ONLY ON ISSUE OF WHETHER MEDICAL TREATMENT FOR DRINKING PROBLEM SHOULD PERMANENTLY DISBAR THEM FROM FLYING, BUT ALSO FOR COMMAND OF THEIR PLANES. AS BWIA IS OWNED BY GOVERNMENT OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, RESOLUTION OF THIS PROBLEM IS LIKELY TO REQUIRE A DIFFICULT POLITICAL DECISION BY PRIME MINISTER WILLIAMS.  
FOX

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** TOURISM, STRIKE VOTE, AIRCRAFT PILOTS, TRAVEL CONTROLS, LABOR STRIKES, AIRLINES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 31 jan 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978PORTO00361  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780050-0449, D780047-0699  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** PORT OF SPAIN  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t1978013/aaaaacht.tel  
**Line Count:** 86  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 86eba1e0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION ARA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 29 mar 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3725200  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** BWIA PILOTS VOTE TO STRIKE  
**TAGS:** EAIR, CASC, ELAB, TD  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/86eba1e0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014